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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : GERT HOBOM ET AL

SERIAL NO. : TO BE ASSIGNED

FILED : HEREWITH

FOR : INFLUENZA VIRUSES WITH ENHANCED TRANSCRIPTIONAL  
AND REPLICATIONAL CAPACITIES

ART UNIT : TO BE ASSIGNED

EXAMINER : TO BE ASSIGNED

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February 8, 2002

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Insert as the first paragraph of the application the following new paragraph:

--This application claims priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/270,135, which was  
filed on February 20, 2001, and of European Patent Application No. 01103060.8, which was  
filed on February 9, 2001.--